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SOME SPECIFIC RESULTS FROM FARM WORK SIMPLIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Colorado.---A new method of cutting seed potatoes in Colorado enables the average farm worker to cut 25 percent more seed potatoes in a day, and do it easier.

Picking potatoes directly into a sack suspended from a picking belt increases output by 20 to 30 percent over use of wire basket under Colorado conditions.

A Colorado experiment in teaching Mexican nationals good bean-picking practices resulted in an average increase in pounds picked per day of 15 percent.

Florida.---Studies of the movement of crews from one field to another resulted in savings by one Florida celery company of from 10 to 15 man-days of labor alone.

In the celery packing house it was found that by combining the operations of sorting and packing directly into the crate, rather than having one person sort and the other pack, as much as 30 percent of the labor input could be saved.

An improved method of tying staked tomatoes was developed in Florida which enables five workers to do the work formerly requiring six men.

Kentucky.---Improved methods in tobacco work were developed in Kentucky which represented savings over the usual methods of about two-thirds on pulling plants, over half on machine setting, about 40 percent on hand setting, 25 percent on priming, 20 to 40 percent on cutting and spearing, and 15 percent on stripping.

Indiana.---By properly planning the arrangement of individual hog farrowing houses, chore travel at spring farrowing can be cut two-thirds.

By learning and following developed and tested rules for effective tomato picking, average pickers increase output by 16 to 20 percent.

In training a group of inexperienced tomato peelers in Indiana, the workers trained in the new method peeled around 22 percent more than inexperienced peelers given no training.

Minnesota.---Savings were made on a Minnesota dairy farm of 300 hours a year (27 percent) and 138 miles of travel a year (37 percent). It is probable that 15 to 25 percent of the working time spent on farms represents waste effort that could be eliminated.

As an average for Minnesota farms, one-fourth of the time and three-fourths of the travel involved in feeding grain can be saved by the use of carts, as compared with using pails or buckets.

Washington.---In Washington a newly designed picking bucket with full box capacity, weighing half as much as the common basket (made from light metal alloy), has been made and is being tested. A new 12-foot metal alloy ladder weighing 12 to 15 pounds less than conventional wooden ladders is also being tested.

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE BY A DAIRY FARMER
IN DOING THE BARN CHORES FOR HIS 22-COW DAIRY

On this farm the time spent on chores was reduced from 5 hours 44 minutes to 3 hours 39 minutes--a saving of 2 hours 5 minutes a day. The travel was reduced from $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles to $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles--a saving of 2 miles a day.

The work was made easier and a better job was done. The money cost of the changes was small. Many of the ideas worked out on this farm can be applied on other farms. The changes were of four general types:

Rearrangement of the stable

1. Cows placed in two nearly equal rows--four stalls added.
2. Horse stable moved--partition around sawdust removed.
3. Bull stall separated from cows.
4. Alley opened up--new outside door, opposite alley.
5. Center posts moved to stanchion lines.
6. Swinging gate near milk house.
7. New manure ramp--door sill removed.

Convenient location of tools and supplies

1. Milking equipment located in "milking area" beside the door where farmer normally enters--teat cup rack, pulsator, milker switch, and rinse pails.
2. Feeding, bedding, and cleaning equipment located in "service area" near the grain, sawdust, silage, and hay chutes.
3. Forks, hoes, and shovels located where work is done.

Provision for adequate and suitable equipment

1. New grain cart and silage cart--regular wheelbarrow replaced with specially built manure wheelbarrow.
2. New teat cup rack, double pail carrier, and milking timer.
3. Small tools to fit the job--new brush with 6-foot handle, scoop shovel for sawdust, eight-tined fork for silage, one hoe for every six cows, hand scoop for feeding grain.

Improvement of work routines and methods

1. Reduced milking interval to a 4-minute average.
2. Shifted from hand stripping to machine stripping.
3. Milked cows in order as they stood.
4. Discarded single-unit milker, keeping only the double unit.
5. Spread sawdust with shovel--instead of dumping and sweeping.
6. Cleaned walks as cows were driven out--combining jobs.
7. Fed both rows of cows on the way down, and brushed grain on the way back, after milking the first two cows.

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